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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU CAMPUS GEARING UP FOR CELEBRATION '98

CHARLESTON -- **Celebration**, Eastern Illinois University's annual festival of the arts, returns to campus August 21, 22 and 23. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the festival and organizers have a wide line-up of special activities planned for visitors of all ages.

One of this year's highlights will be the free Saturday evening performance of 60's teen idol **Mark Lindsay**, original lead singer of the classic rock group **Paul Revere and the Raiders**. Lindsay, known for his dynamic and entertaining stage show, has sold more than 50 million records, including 17 "Top 40" favorites such as *Indian Reservation*, *Kicks*, *Hungary* and *Arizona*.

Other featured performers will be the EIU Jazz Ensemble; pianist John Michael Gray; the Middle Eastern sounds of *Salaam*; *Sally Weisenberg and the Famous Sidemen*; the rock band, *Hello Dave*; the EIU Flute Choir; the Dixieland sounds of the *Cornbelt*

-more-

All-Stars; the Charleston Youth Orchestra; and, from Chicago, *World Class Noise*.

In addition to a fantastic line-up of musical performers, **Celebration** features folk arts demonstrations, a children's craft area, art exhibitions, children's performances and the Arthur story-writing project, sponsored by WEIU-TV. **Celebration** will also welcome one of the largest line-ups of fine arts craft vendors on Saturday and Sunday. More than 60 artists will be selling their unique designed works ranging from jewelry to pottery.

And no festival is complete without a wide array of delicious foods. Food selections will range from Greek to Cajun with a lot of tasty desserts.

Celebration activities will take place on Eastern's campus, directly behind the Livingston C. Lord Administration Building, or "Old Main" as it is more commonly known. There is no admission charge to the festival and the grounds are handicapped accessible. There are a number of convenient parking lots located near the festival grounds.

Celebration is hosted by Eastern's College of Arts and Humanities and sponsored by the Charleston Tourism Advisory Board; the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; and the Development Campaign for **Celebration**. For information on how to obtain a programming list for this year's **Celebration: A Festival of the Arts and Humanities**, call the Festival Planning Office at 217-581-2113 or FAX 217-581-7085.